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The Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting – University of Chicago

January 9th, 2015

The Challenges of Political Leadership in a Religiously Pluralistic Society

Society of Christian Ethics

Annual Meeting – University of Chicago

Intro

Thank you Bill Werpehowski for your kind introduction... And thank you Kathleen Caveny and everyone here with the Society of Christian Ethics for your invitation. My staff will confirm that I've really been looking forward to this opportunity — chiefly because I get to quote Thomas Aquinas without my local press making fun of me for doing so...

I'm also looking forward to panel discussion with Jewish, Muslim, Christian ethicists, and questions from all of you.

I've been asked to share a few thoughts with you today about the challenges of political leadership in a religiously pluralistic society.

Thomas Aquinas once wrote, that “any seeker of a higher truth, or of God, must eventually and inevitably return to the idea of community.”

As an American and as a Catholic, I was raised:

- To believe in the dignity of every person,
- To believe in our own individual responsibility to advance the common good,
- And to believe that there is a unity to spirit and matter –

That we are all in this together.

Each of us is needed.

Each of us must try.

My mom and dad, Tom and Barbara O'Malley were children of the Great Depression.

They grew up to become part of that great American generation;

The generation who fought and won the Second World War.

They had six children — which in those days made us merely a mid-sized Irish Catholic family... many of our fellow parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes Church suspected us of being Lutheran spies.

I was born between times —

A time between the ideological days of my older baby-boomer siblings,
and the more entrepreneurial and collaborative days of my millennial children.

A time between the age of big bureaucracy and big institutions;
and this new age of big-data and global collaboration.

My father was a solo practitioner lawyer.

In our house, the practice of law, like politics, was considered a noble calling — not necessarily lucrative mind you — but noble nonetheless.

All his life my dad defended and represented many clients too poor to pay: the sick, the imprisoned, the grieving, the homeless, the old, the mentally ill.

In his daily practice of life, dad was always individually kind to people that others often looked beyond — servers, bus-boys, janitors, parking lot attendants.

As kids, we had all watched the movie, "To Kill a Mockingbird," and we agreed that dad very much reminded all of us of Atticus Finch — that great American hero, father, and lawyer who declared:

"The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience."

Baltimore

After attending Catholic University in Washington, DC, I moved to Baltimore for law school and stayed.

I worked as a prosecutor in the State's Attorney's Office for a brief time;

and then in 1991, I ran for City Council from northeast Baltimore and won.

I served two terms.

By 1999, Baltimore, had become the most violent, most addicted, most abandoned city in America.

Confronted by this injustice and compelled by a small voice within, I ran for Mayor against all odds.

In that hit campaign summer, we talked about justice and injustice.

We talked about our fears and our distrust of one another.

We talked about the truth that we must help each other in order to give our City a safer tomorrow.

And we won with 54% of the vote in a majority African American City.

The Washington Post greeted my upset election victory with the headline – “White Man Wins Mayor of Baltimore.”

The next day the paper issued an apology for the headline.

It was the only apology I have ever received from the Washington Post – and, ironically, it was for a headline that was 100% accurate.

Amber

True story:

At one of our first community meetings in a hard hit neighborhood of East Baltimore, citizens assembled talk to their new Mayor.

To talk about crime, drugs, and policing. There was a tension in the air.

A little girl came up to the microphone. “Mr. Mayor,” she said, “my name is Amber, and I am 12 years old.

And because of all the addicted people and drug dealers in my neighborhood, there are people in the newspaper who call my neighborhood, ‘Zombie Land.’

And I want to know if you know they call my neighborhood Zombie Land,... and I want to know if you’re doing anything about it?”

Her two questions... are the two essential questions.

Do you know?

And are you doing something about it?

We decided as a City to believe in one another.

Together, we took action against crime and drug addiction.

And over the next 10 years, Baltimore went on to achieve the biggest reduction in part 1 crime of any major city in America.

Many police officers gave their lives to save the lives of others and to change the future of our City.

None of it was simple or easy; the problems of crime, poverty, and addiction were all complex.

Progress was complicated.

But the essential questions were fairly simple...

Do you know?

And are you doing something about it?...

As Max Scheler, the German Ethics philosopher of the late 19th and early 20th centuries wrote:

“The act of helping is the direct and adequate expression of love, not its meaning or ‘purpose.’ Its meaning lies in itself, in its illumination of the soul, in the nobility of the loving soul in the act of love.”

As an American, as a Catholic, as a Public Servant, I have sometimes wrestled with the hierarchies of my own organized religion, within the evolution of ever-more inclusive notions of freedom, justice, and love.

I have worked hard to sort out the difference between justice and vengeance.

With my neighbors I have searched for the right balance between security and freedom;

for the right balance — under the law and among a people of many faiths — for protecting the dignity of every person and the freedom of individual conscience.

Together we have sought to better understand the capacities of a government of, by, and for the people; as well as its limitations:

That the law must be ordered to the common good in service of the whole people, people of many different faiths;

That the scope of the law must be limited to the maintenance and protection of public, not private, morality.

In my service, I have sought to reflect the goodness and the best intentions of the people I serve:

A people who seek and imagine a future for our children that is;

Better,

More secure,

More prosperous,

And more compassionate than our present.

As Governor

In two weeks, I will conclude eight years of service to the People of Maryland as their Governor.

Over the course of these last eight years we have accomplished many important things and taken many important steps to advance our common good:

To build an economy with a human purpose.

To eradicate childhood hunger.

To create new jobs and expand economic opportunity,

promoting the dignity of work by passing a living wage and raising the minimum wage,

respecting the right of workers to organize, enacting a fair and progressive income tax.

Passing a state version of the Dream Act,

welcoming and caring for refugee children fleeing death gangs in Central America, reducing the incidence of infant mortality.

Providing a quality education for every child in our State, regardless of wealth,

Protecting God's natural creation for the benefit of future generations, reducing violent crime, rebuilding our cities.

Healing the sick, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, visiting the imprisoned.

A Degree of Discernment

Some of these actions have found broad consensus.

Others have involved considerable controversy:

Decriminalizing marijuana possession.

Restricting the purchase of assault weapons and hand-guns.

Enacting Civil Marriage Equality.

Repealing the Death Penalty.

These issues have called upon all of us — as free citizens — to exercise a degree of discernment;

To do justice in the law and in our relationships with one another.

To ask – What is the proper balance between state prohibition, maintaining social order, and the respecting the freedom of individual conscience?

To ask – How we should apply the constitutional principle of “equal protection under the law” to protecting the dignity of every child’s home, and the commitments of same-sex couples?

To ask – What limits should there be to just punishment among a free and self-governed people?

The answers to these questions define not only the society we share, but the world our children will inherit.

They must be worked out among us, and between us, in a spirit of community and understanding — in that space between us where the public interest is found.

For what was true in Paul’s time is also true in our own:

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

[And] There is no law against such things.” (Galatians 5:22)



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January 21, 2015

Inaugural Address – Governor Larry Hogan

Governor Christie, thank you for being here, thanks for your tremendous support, and for that very kind introduction.

To my wife, Yumi, my daughters and my entire family, please know that it is because of your incredible love and support that I am able to stand here today. I am privileged and proud to have Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford by my side. He has been more than a running mate. He is a friend. I am honored to serve with him.

Governor O'Malley, thank you for your gracious cooperation during the transition and for your years of public service.

Lt. Governor Brown, thank you for your service, not only to the state, but to our nation.

To my good friends Governor Ehrlich and Lt. Governor Steele, thank you for your leadership. It was an honor to serve in your administration. Governor Hughes and Governor Mandel, thank you for all you have done for Maryland.

Senate President Miller, Speaker Busch, and members of the Maryland General Assembly, we have great challenges ahead of us, but I look forward to working together with each and every one of you.

Comptroller Franchot, Treasurer Kopp, and Attorney General Frosh, Chief Judge Barbera and the other members of the judiciary, Senators Mikulski and Cardin and members of our Congressional Delegation, and all the local elected officials and other dignitaries, thank you all for being here for this historic occasion. Most importantly, I want to thank the citizens from all across our state, who put aside party politics and who came together and voted to change Maryland for the better.

I'm grateful, because I know something about putting aside partisanship in order to do the right thing.

Forty years ago, a Maryland Congressman, a Republican, sat on the House Judiciary Committee during Watergate, and the entire world was watching. Would this man be willing to buck his own party, his own president, to do what he thought was right for the country?

Despite tremendous pressure, this statesman put aside partisanship and made the tough decision, and became the first Republican to come out for the impeachment of President Nixon.

That man was my dad, former Congressman Lawrence J. Hogan, Sr., who is here with us today.

He put aside party politics and his own personal considerations in order to do the right thing for the nation.

He taught me more about integrity in one day than most men learn in a lifetime, and I am so proud to be his son.

Ladies and gentlemen, today, we are gathered in front of our beautiful state house, which has been in service since 1772. A few steps from where I'm standing is where General George Washington resigned his commission.

Two hundred and thirty one years ago, the Revolutionary War ended right here, inside this state house, with the ratification of the Treaty of Paris in 1784. And just a few miles away from here, when the future of a fledgling nation was in doubt, Francis Scott Key penned the Star Spangled Banner during the War of 1812.

For Maryland, and for our nation, this is a place where great things begin, and where great things are accomplished.

Today, against this historic and majestic backdrop, Maryland once again starts a new chapter in our long, proud history.

Today's inauguration marks a new beginning for Maryland, and the limitless possibilities before us.

I am a lifelong Marylander who loves this state. Every great experience, every great memory, every great moment I have ever had in my life, has happened right here, in Maryland.

It is such an incredible honor to be standing before you today as the 62nd governor of the great state of Maryland.

I am truly humbled and deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve my fellow Marylanders, and I vow to work tirelessly every single day to prove worthy of this great honor that you have granted me.

Today, we celebrate a new beginning for Maryland, remembering our past, while striving for a better and more promising future.

The question isn't whether Maryland is a great state. The question is: What will we do, all of us, to reinvigorate this great state that we all love? What will we do to ensure that our future is better than our present or our past?

I believe that the time has come to cast aside the status quo, and to come together to build a better future for our state and all our citizens. We must set the bar higher, and create a bolder vision of the future.

Let's create a Maryland that is thriving, growing, innovating, and is responsive to the needs of all its citizens. Let's strive to make Maryland the best place in America to

work, raise a family, start a business, and even to retire. Let us renew our sense of optimism, and make Maryland a place of unlimited promise.

Together, let's make Maryland a place that we can all be proud of again. Today, I am reminded of those brave Marylanders who first came to this land seeking freedom and opportunity when they landed in St. Mary's City in 1634. While the challenges facing us today are different, I know that the courage and the spirit of Marylanders is the same.

We seek the freedom to compete without the undue burden of high taxes and bureaucratic regulations, which make us less competitive. We seek opportunities to build better communities, better businesses, and better lives for ourselves, our children, and our children's children. And most of all, we cherish both the freedom and opportunity to decide our future.

And today, we celebrate that freedom and opportunity. What I envision for Maryland is not just an economic and fiscal recovery, but a rebirth of our spirit, and a renewed commitment to our common purpose. The citizens of Maryland expect great things from us, and they deserve great things from us.

Too often, we see wedge politics and petty rhetoric used to belittle our adversaries and inflame partisan divisions. But I believe that Maryland is better than this. Our history proves that we are better than this. It is only when the partisan shouting stops that we can hear each other's voices and concerns.

I am prepared to create an environment of trust and cooperation, where the best ideas rise to the top based upon their merit, regardless of which side of the political debate they come from.

No problem faces us that hard work, honesty, and courage cannot solve if we work together.

Ladies and gentlemen, we can improve the tone in Annapolis, and we will. And we can move toward a common-sense, solutions-based government. The problems we face are great, but so is our resolve to fix them. President Kennedy once said, "Let us not seek the Republican answer, or the Democratic answer, but the right answer."

In that spirit, let us sit down together and come up with real, bipartisan, common sense solutions to the serious problems that face us. That's what the people of Maryland voted for, it's what they want, and it's what they deserve. The history of our great state is rich and deep, and our commitment to freedom and justice has always been our strength.

In 1649, the Maryland Toleration Act, one of the first laws that granted different faiths the right to freely worship, was enacted. Since then, over the many years, Maryland has blossomed into a state wonderfully defined by our vibrant culture of racial, ethnic, and religious diversity.

In our hearts, Marylanders are hard-wired for inclusiveness. It's who we are, it's our founding principle, it's part of our identity, and it is our greatest strength. Our culture of tolerance and mutual respect must also extend to those with whom we happen to differ on politics.

Today is not the beginning of an era of divided government. Today is the beginning of a new spirit of bipartisan cooperation in Annapolis. There is so much that unites us: a love of our state, a commitment to fairness, and a desire to be economically strong and successful.

And to those who would divide us, or drive us to the extremes of either political party, I remind you that Maryland has been called "a state of middle temperament." Our politics need that middle temperament as well. The politics that have divided our nation need not divide our state. In the days ahead, I ask all Marylanders to seek that middle ground, where we can all stand together.

I recognize that the events of 2014 stirred strong feelings throughout the nation. But in keeping with the moderate tradition of Maryland, we expressed our passions in a positive, open, respectful, and civil way, as concerned neighbors. It's one of the many reasons I am proud to be a Marylander.

Our greatest challenge has always been reaching the high expectations set for us by our founders. That is why we will always keep trying, always keep growing, and why we shall never fail.

In the end, it isn't about politics; it's about citizenship, and the ability to understand the difference – that is what it means to be a Marylander. Maryland's greatness is in her goodness. Partisanship should never denigrate the unique legacy entrusted to us by our founders. To all my friends across the aisle, I assure you that partisanship will never play a role in my decision-making. Everything we do will be guided by four common-sense principles.

First: Fiscal responsibility.

Our state government must provide essential services, yet still live within its means. We must run our state government more efficiently and more cost effectively.

Second: Economic growth.

Maryland has an educated workforce, world-class universities and colleges, great community colleges, and public schools. We have our beautiful Chesapeake Bay, the Port of Baltimore, and a great location in the heart of the Mid-Atlantic region. We must leverage these amazing assets to transform Maryland into a place where businesses can flourish and create more jobs and opportunities for our citizens. Starting today let me say loudly and clearly: Maryland is open for business.

Third: Reform.

We must improve our state government's ability to be more responsive to, and to better serve and represent all of our citizens.

Fourth: Fairness.

We must restore a sense of fairness and balance for Maryland's hardworking and beleaguered taxpayers, in order to rebuild our forgotten middle class. We must get the state government off our backs, and out of our pockets, so that we can grow the private sector, put people back to work, and turn our economy around.

Ladies and gentlemen, we can accomplish these things, and together we will. This is our chance to build a better government that works for the people, and not the other way around.

To accomplish these objectives will require leadership. I'm not talking about any one leader. It will take many, all of us, working together, rolling up our sleeves, acting with mutual respect, and doing our jobs for the people of Maryland. It will require listening, education, and bold actions. And it will take the courage to do things differently.

A commitment to doing things differently will be challenging. But it will be worth it. We're worth it. And more importantly, Maryland is worth it. One hundred years from now, I want Marylanders to say, "This was when Maryland's renaissance began."

Ladies and gentlemen, I stand before you today, full of hope, hope for our great state, hope for our people, and hope for our future. I want Maryland's future, to be brighter than it's present, and brighter than it's past.

It can be, and it will be. Before my father cast his vote on the impeachment committee, 40 years ago, he quoted President Lincoln, who said, "We cannot escape history." And, we cannot escape our future – it's out there, waiting for us. Let us show our fellow Marylanders that government can work, that we can work together, that change is possible, and that Maryland can live up to the promise of our founders.

Let us always act worthy of the great task entrusted to us, to renew and advance our great state.

Let us appeal to the better angels of our nature so that we can achieve the great and shining promise of Maryland. Ladies and gentlemen, we can change Maryland for the better. And together, we will.

Thank you, God bless you, and may God bless the great state of Maryland.

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State of the State Address

February 4, 2015



State of the State Address
"A New Direction for Maryland"
As Prepared for Delivery
Wednesday, February 4, 2015
State House, Annapolis

Speaker Busch, President Miller, members of the General Assembly, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is an honor, and I am truly humbled, for the opportunity to appear before this 435th General Assembly – as Maryland's new governor – to report on the state of our state.

Marylanders are among the nation's hardest working and most educated people. We have universities and schools that are among the best in the nation.

No state can match the beauty of the Chesapeake Bay, our beaches and farms, or the mountains of Western Maryland, the Port of Baltimore, or the historic charm of every corner of our state.

But while our assets are many, and our people are strong and hopeful, their state is simply not as strong as it could be – or as it should be.

We have a lot to do, to get Maryland back on track and working again.

Speeches Archives

The challenges we face are great.

High taxes, over-regulation, and an anti-business attitude are clearly the cause of our economic problems. Our economy is floundering, and too many Marylanders have been struggling, just to get by.

40 consecutive tax hikes have taken an additional \$10 billion out of the pockets of struggling Maryland families and small businesses. We've lost more than 8,000 businesses, and Maryland's unemployment nearly doubled.

We're number three in the nation in foreclosures, and dead last in manufacturing. We've had the largest mass exodus of taxpayers fleeing our state – of any state in our region, and one of the worst in the nation.

And, while most states around the country have turned the corner – sadly, Maryland continues to languish behind. The federal government ranked our state's economy 49th out of 50 states.

That is simply unacceptable.

According to a recent Gallup poll, nearly half of all Marylanders would leave the state if they could. As a lifelong Marylander who loves this state – that just breaks my heart.

We fail all Marylanders if we simply accept these dismal facts as the status quo.

Well – I refuse to accept the status quo, because the people of Maryland deserve better.

Over the past few years, as I traveled across the state, I listened to the concerns of Marylanders from all walks of life. The common theme I kept hearing was frustration. People everywhere feel a real disconnect between Annapolis and the rest of Maryland. They feel that we are way off track, heading in the wrong direction, and that change is desperately needed in Annapolis.

The problems we face aren't Democratic problems, or Republican problems. These are Maryland's problems.

And they will require common sense, Maryland solutions. With the will of the people behind us, and with all of us working together, we can put Maryland back on track.

And we will.

Today, Marylanders look to us for leadership. They look to us to put Maryland on a new path, toward opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is time for us to listen to Maryland's hard working taxpayers and our job creators.

The people of Maryland simply cannot afford for us to continue on the same path of more spending, more borrowing, more taxes, and politics as usual.

It is time for a new direction for Maryland.

Our administration will chart a new course; one guided by simple, common sense principles. Our focus will be on jobs, struggling Maryland families, and restoring our economy.

And every decision I make as governor will be put to a simple test.

Will this law or action make it easier for families and small businesses to stay in Maryland?

And – will it make more families and small businesses want to come to Maryland?

Our administration will work with all of you to enact the necessary budgets, tax reductions, regulatory reforms, and legislation that is necessary, to ensure that we turn our economy around.

Just 24 hours after being sworn into office, I proposed a budget for Fiscal Year 2016 that fairly and responsibly controls spending.

When my team began the budgeting process, we encountered a baseline budget of \$17 billion in expenses and projected revenue of only \$16.3 billion. The state was poised to somehow spend \$700 million that we simply did not have.

Mandatory payments on state debt had increased by 96 percent just this year. We face an \$18.7 billion unfunded pension liability.

Faced with this troubling reality, we revised that script – delivering a fiscally responsible budget that only expends what we take in. This is just common sense. And will come as no surprise to anyone that manages a family's finances, or runs a small business.

Our team created a structurally balanced budget for the first time in nearly a decade. This budget sends a clear

and important message that the days of deficit spending in Maryland are over.

We had to make some very tough decisions in just the first few days of our administration in order to get this state budget under control. But our budget puts Maryland on sound financial footing, without raising taxes or fees, without eliminating agencies, departments, or services, without imposing furloughs and without laying off a single state employee.

Our new budget also funds our priorities, including providing record investment in K-12 education and increased investment in higher education.

This proposed FY2016 budget is just a start. We will have much more to do in the days and months ahead to correct our state's fiscal course. I am eager to work cooperatively with the General Assembly to meet these challenges head on.

Before I became governor, increases in spending were promised that simply could not be kept. If ever Maryland needed a dose of honesty, it's now.

The debates that take place in this chamber in the weeks ahead cannot ignore the certainty of our current fiscal situation. We will make every effort to be fair, judicious and thoughtful, and my administration will work hard to preserve jobs and to fund priorities.

Budget choices are never easy, and you may have different ideas and solutions. And we look forward to hearing them, and to working together with you to find common ground.

As long as those solutions don't include increasing taxes, spending more than we take in, or going further into debt.

And remember, every penny that is added to one program, must be taken from another.

Failing to spend the taxpayer's money in a responsible way could eventually jeopardize our ability to adequately fund education, transportation, environmental programs, and provide support to the vulnerable and those most in need.

We simply cannot let that happen.

So, how do we begin to change direction, and to improve the state that we all love?

It won't happen overnight, and there will be times and issues that will test us all, but there are a number of initial actions that I believe we must begin working on immediately.

1. Making Maryland More Competitive

Maryland's anti-business attitude, combined with our onerous tax and regulatory policies have rendered our state unable to compete with any of the states in our region. It's the reason that businesses, jobs and taxpayers have been fleeing our state at an alarming rate.

It's at the heart of the fiscal and economic issues we are currently dealing with, and it is something we must find solutions to.

A year ago, I held my second annual Change Maryland Business Summit on Improving Maryland's Economic Competitiveness.

We became the leading voice on these issues – it's the reason I have the honor of being your governor, and it will be the primary focus of our administration.

I want to commend Senate President Miller and Speaker Busch for recognizing the need to make Maryland more economically competitive.

A year ago, at their urging, this legislature created the Maryland Economic Development and Business Climate Commission, also known as the Augustine Commission, to make recommendations to make Maryland competitive. It was a great first step, and we are anxiously awaiting the recommendations of this commission.

But, I am confident that we will find many areas of agreement to make Maryland a more business friendly and more competitive state, so that we can create more jobs and more opportunities for our citizens.

2. Making State Government More Efficient And More Responsive

I'm proud of the experienced, diverse and bipartisan Cabinet that we have assembled to take over the reigns of state government.

Many of them bring fresh, innovative ideas and valuable real world, private-sector management expertise to their agencies. Their primary mission will be to find ways to

restructure their agencies and to make state government more efficient, and more cost effective.

But, we also want to change the culture of state government.

The voters have given us an opportunity to build a government that works for the people – and not the other way around.

Comptroller Franchot noted at his swearing-in last week that we must reinstate old-fashioned customer service to every aspect of government.

I completely agree – and together we will.

3. Repealing The Rain Tax

Dealing with the problem of storm water management and working to restore our most treasured asset, the Chesapeake Bay, is a goal we all strongly agree on.

But in my humble opinion, passing a state law that forced certain counties to raise taxes on their citizens – against their will – may not have been the best way to address the issue.

If there was one message that Marylanders have made perfectly clear it was that taxing struggling and already overtaxed Marylanders for the rain that falls on the roof of their homes was a mistake that needs to be corrected.

This week, our administration will submit legislation to repeal the rain tax.

4. Tax Relief For Retirees

Nearly every day I hear from folks who say that they love the state of Maryland, that they have spent their entire lives here, and that they don't want to leave their kids and grandkids. But, that they simply cannot afford to stay here on a fixed income.

We are losing many of our best and brightest citizens to other states.

Eventually, once we solve our current budget crisis, and turn our economy around, I want to reach the point where we are able to do away with income taxes on all retirement income, just as many other states have done.

This week, we will start heading toward that goal by submitting legislation that repeals income taxes on

pensions for retired military, police, fire, and first responders.

These brave men and women have put their lives on the line for us – they deserve it – and they have earned these tax breaks.

5. Tax Relief For Small businesses

I have spent most of my life in the private sector, running a small business in a state that, at times, seemed openly hostile to people like me.

There is much more for us to do, but as a first step, I'm proposing cutting personal property taxes for small businesses.

This burdensome tax and bureaucratic paperwork discourages the creation of new business, and drives small businesses and jobs elsewhere.

This legislation would create a tax exemption on the first \$10,000 in personal property, entirely eliminating this tax for more than 70,000 small business owners — or one-half of all Maryland's businesses.

6. Repealing Automatic Gas Tax Increases

After siphoning a billion dollars from the Transportation Trust Fund, a decision was made to enact the largest gas tax increase in state history. This legislation also included language that would automatically increase taxes every single year without it ever having a coming up for a vote.

Marylanders deserve the transparency to know how their elected leaders vote every time the state takes a bigger share of their hard-earned dollars. This is a regressive tax that hurts struggling Maryland families and our most vulnerable, and which adds to the cost of almost everything.

These automatic tax increases should be repealed, and we will submit legislation to do so.

7. Improving Transportation

Over the last several years, monies for local road improvements have been slashed by up to 96 percent.

Our administration is committed to restoring the money that was taken from the transportation trust fund, and to making sure that it never happens again.

Today I am pleased to announce a supplemental to our FY2016 budget that will increase Highway User Revenues by \$25 million and give counties and municipalities the most money for road improvements that they have received since FY 2009.

Further, we are committed to increasing the local share of Highway User Revenues from 10% today to its original high point of 30% over the next 8 years.

This initial tax relief package is just a starting point in the process of rebuilding our state's economy, and of course tax relief is only part of the solution. We have other important initiatives as well.

8. Improving Education For All Maryland children

Education is our top priority.

In our proposed budget, we spend more money on education than ever before. We fund K-12 education at record levels and have committed over \$290 million to school construction.

And this is the first time in history that any administration has provided additional supplemental funding for education through GCEI in their first year.

We have some great schools here in Maryland, but the gap between the best and the worst schools is dramatic.

I believe that every child in Maryland deserves a world-class education, regardless of what neighborhood they grow up in. We must fix our under-performing schools while also giving parents and children realistic and better alternatives.

So, let's expand families choices. Let's encourage more public charter schools to open and operate in Maryland

This month, our administration will submit legislation to strengthen Maryland's charter school law. This legislation will expand choices for families and make it easier for more public charter schools to operate in Maryland.

Our administration will also push for the enactment of the "Building Opportunities for All Students and Teachers" legislation, also known as "BOAST."

It provides tax credits to those who make voluntary contributions to private or parochial schools, and it will help free up more money and resources for our students

in public schools.

This legislation has been debated in these chambers for more than a decade. The Senate has already voted to support it. We need to work to convince our colleagues in the House that it is the right thing to do.

9. Protecting The Environment

A healthy Bay is key to a strong economy and high quality of life – for all Marylanders. It will be a top priority of our administration.

Even after spending \$15 billion in Maryland tax dollars, the health of our Chesapeake Bay has declined. Maryland just received a D+ on a recent report card.

This is just the latest indicator that our current strategy for protecting and restoring our greatest natural asset is failing. Our administration intends to reverse that trend.

It's time for a new approach. We can, and we must do better.

We all agree on the problem: there's too much phosphorous, nitrogen, and sediment entering our bay. We must take action to prevent as much of this pollution as possible from entering the bay.

However – restoration of our bay must not fall on one group disproportionately. Placing unreasonable burdens upon Maryland's farmers will serve only to devastate more rural communities.

We will work with the agricultural and environmental communities to find fair and balanced solutions for limiting phosphorus. In addition, we will take a comprehensive approach to restoring our bay by addressing the long-ignored impact of upstream polluters, and the sediment spilling over the Conowingo Dam.

We will work with all stakeholders to come up with fresh, innovative solutions to protect and restore our greatest natural asset.

1. Tackling Maryland's Heroin Epidemic

As I travel throughout our state, I hear the devastating stories from our families and friends who hurt from the devastation heroin has wreaked on our communities.

Throughout Maryland, from our smallest town to our biggest city, it has become an epidemic, and it is

destroying lives. I have tasked Lt. Governor Rutherford with bringing together all of the stakeholders in order to come up with a plan to tackle this emergency.

Later this month, we will execute an executive order to address this heroin epidemic.

1. Campaign Finance And Election Reform

The strength of our democracy rests on a balanced, honest and open political process that challenges convention and encourages progress.

The Fair Campaign Financing Act for gubernatorial elections provides this balance and opens discord. It levels the playing field and holds our elected leaders accountable.

And while many said we would never elect a governor because of the low spending limits mandated in our public finance laws, I stand before you today as proof that the system does work.

We must replenish this fund as soon as possible and make it available for future candidates. Therefore, we will submit legislation to reinstate the voluntary check-off which allows a taxpayer to make a donation to go towards the public campaign financing system each year.

Finally, we need to address redistricting reform.

We have some of the most gerrymandered districts in the country – this is not a distinction that we should be proud of.

Gerrymandering is a form of political gamesmanship that stifles real political debate and deprives citizens of meaningful choices. Fair and competitive elections – and having checks and balances – make for a more vibrant and responsive citizen republic.

To advance this discussion, I will execute an executive order that creates a bipartisan commission to examine Maryland's redistricting process with the goal of fully reforming this process and giving this authority to an independent, bipartisan commission.

Though this is an ambitious agenda, I believe that these actions will begin to put Maryland on a new path, one that leads to a new era of opportunity, and prosperity for all our citizens.

Though our visions may differ, our goals are the same: a

better, stronger, cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous Maryland. We can't accomplish these goals alone. We need your help, your ideas, and your support.

And while I'm sure we will disagree on a few points in the coming weeks, I am prepared to create an environment of trust and cooperation, one in which the best ideas rise to the top based upon their merit, regardless of which side of the political debate they come from.

So let us commit ourselves to that goal: to live up to our potential, to work together to solve the big problems with cooperation and good faith, for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

Let us renew our sense of optimism, and make Maryland a place of unlimited promise. Together, let's change Maryland for the better.

Thank you, God bless you, and may God bless the great state of Maryland.

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Governor Larry Hogan Announces Shimadzu Corp. To Open Innovation Center In Maryland

June 5, 2015

\$20 Million Investment To Create 25 New Jobs

TOKYO, JAPAN – Governor Larry Hogan met with executives from Shimadzu Corp., a Kyoto, Japan-based multinational corporation, and announced that the company plans to expand its U.S. headquarters in Columbia, Md., by investing \$20 million and creating an Innovation Center focused on new product research, development and engineering. The company has operated its U.S. subsidiary, Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, in Columbia since 1975 and currently has 200 employees in Maryland. The center, which will be developed over the next five years and create 25 new jobs, will enable Shimadzu to better align itself with new technologies being developed in the U.S., particularly in the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore metropolitan area. This meeting took place in Japan as part of Governor's Hogan 12-day trade mission to Korea, China and Japan.

"Shimadzu has been a valued corporate partner in Maryland since 1975 and we are very excited that this world-class company is continuing to expand and invest in our state," said Governor Hogan. "Through this new Innovation Center, Shimadzu will be able to harness the groundbreaking research being done in our region and deliver the next generation of analytical and measurement instruments to a global marketplace."

"The Innovation Center will house a team of engineers and scientists whose goal will be to develop close

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collaborations with universities, government agencies, and industry centers in order to capitalize on the cutting-edge research being conducted in and around the area,” said Shuzo Maruyama, president of Shimadzu Scientific Instruments.

Founded in 1875, Shimadzu is a \$3 billion multinational corporation with three major divisions: Medical Diagnostics, Aerospace/Industrial, and Analytical Instruments. In the United States, Shimadzu Scientific Instruments has a network of more than 50 locations providing local and regional sales, service, and technical support.

In 2014, Shimadzu Scientific Instruments opened a new Solutions Center at its Columbia location to enhance collaboration with customers and enable the company to more quickly respond to customer needs for new scientific instruments, software platforms, and applications. The 4,100-square-foot center showcases more than 30 Shimadzu scientific instruments, as well as provides space for more collaborative research, and helps the company to more quickly develop new software applications and focus-based solutions.

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Full Remarks: Governor Larry Hogan Announces Cancer Diagnosis

June 22, 2015

Good afternoon. Thank you for being here.

Joining me today is our First Lady, Yumi Hogan, and my daughters, Kim and Jaymi, and my sons-in-law Ben and Louis.

And of course my granddaughter Daniella.

Also with me is our Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, and my chief of staff Craig Williams.

I called this press conference today to talk about a new challenge that i will face, a personal one – one that requires me, once again, to be an underdog and a fighter.

A few days ago, I was diagnosed with cancer, aggressive B-cell non-Hodgkins lymphoma, to be specific – which is a cancer of the lymph nodes.

The truth is, I have learned over the past few days that this cancer is very advanced and aggressive.

In fact, when I embarked on my trade mission to Asia just a few weeks ago, I had no idea of my condition.

Much has happened in a very short period of time that has led me to seek medical attention and has brought me here to talk with you today.

I will face this challenge with the same energy and determination I've relied on to climb every hill and overcome every obstacle that I've faced in my life.

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I am blessed with the incredible expertise and dedication of many health care providers serving as my care team.

These health care experts are helping me on my journey from diagnosis to treatment and then to recovery.

The good news is that i have learned that an aggressive chemotherapy treatment regimen has a strong chance of success.

The best news is that my odds of getting through this are much better than my odds were of beating Anthony brown to become the 62nd governor of Maryland...

It's better than the odds of finally doing away with the rain tax.

Better than the odds of delivering tax relief for the families of Maryland.

Better than the odds of passing a budget that doesn't include tax hikes and reigns in state spending.

Better than the odds of negotiating enhanced PMT regulations with both the farmers and the environmentalists to help save our bay.

Better than the odds of passing legislation to improve charter schools.

Better than the odds of reducing tolls for the first time in 50 years.

And it's definitely better than the odds of the Baltimore Sun naming me Marylander of the year...

This latest challenge will require my attention and focus while balancing the demands of being the best public servant that i can be.

Fortunately, I am blessed with an incredible family – a loving spouse, along with three wonderful daughters, a strong extended family, and many devoted friends.

I am also truly fortunate to have a wise and steady partner in government – Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, a great chief of staff in Craig Williams, along with a strong and dedicated cabinet and staff.

Cancer – regardless of the type – is a disease that has touched every one of us through family or friends. It is my hope that in being candid about my battle, that i will raise awareness that will ultimately benefit others.

This weekend, like the rest of Maryland, my family celebrated father's day.

For me, though i had very tough news to share with them, it was a special and heartfelt time to be with my family – the first lady, our daughters, and my dad Larry Hogan, Sr., my role model.

In the midst of this struggle, I was reminded once again of how blessed and lucky I truly am.

As I climb this hill, I remain comforted by my abiding faith that the lord continues to bless me and will be by my side with every step – granting me strength to defeat this disease and the wisdom and the judgment to be the public steward that I was called to be.

Over the coming months, I'll receive multiple treatments, I'll lose my hair, trim down a bit, but I will not stop working to change Maryland for the better.

I'll be working hard, and making the decisions the people of this state elected me to make.

The fact is, I'm just like the more than 70,000 people diagnosed with lymphoma every year, who fight it, who beat it, and continue doing their jobs at the same time.

With my faith, family, and friends, I know that I won't just beat this disease but I will be a better and stronger person and governor on the other side.

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